

REMARKS

In the Claims:

Claims 106-108 and 120 are cancelled herein without disclaimer or prejudice to pursuing the inventions of these claims in continuing or divisional applications.

Claims 109, 125-131, 134-135, and 142 are pending and indicated as allowable in the Office action mailed July 17, 2006.

Rejections:

35 U.S.C. § 102

Claims 106-108 and 120 stand rejected as allegedly anticipated under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) by Mulligan (US Pat Nos. 5,674,722 and 6,001,350).

Although Applicants respectfully disagree with this ground of rejection, to expedite issuance of the allowed claims Applicants have herein cancelled claims 106-108 and 120 without disclaimer or prejudice to pursuing the invention of these claims in continuing or divisional applications. Applicants have thus overcome this ground of rejection and respectfully request that it be withdrawn.

CONCLUSION

Pending claims 109, 125-131, 134-135, and 142 are indicated as being allowable in the Office action mailed 17 July 2006. Applicants respectfully request the Examiner grant allowance of these claims so that they can proceed to issuance. The Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned attorney for Applicants via telephone if such communication would expedite issuance of these claims.

Respectfully Submitted,



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